

BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

JEANETTE KNAFF,
Charging Party

HRB CASE NO. 0131016438

-v-

FINAL AGENCY DECISION

CASCADE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL d/b/a
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL,
Respondent

Charging Party, Jeanette Knaff (Knaff), filed a complaint with the Department of Labor and Industry (Department) alleging discrimination in employment on the basis of sex, marital status and retaliation. Following an informal investigation, the Department determined that a preponderance of the evidence did not support Knaff's allegations that Respondent, Cascade County Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul d/b/a St. Vincent de Paul, discriminated against Knaff. The Department issued a Notice of Dismissal. Knaff filed an objection with the Montana Human Rights Commission (Commission). The Commission considered the matter on May 13, 2014. No oral argument was requested for this hearing.

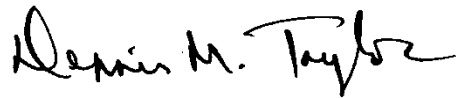
The Commission reviews a decision of the Department to dismiss a complaint using an abuse of discretion standard. *Section 49-2-511(2), MCA*. After careful consideration, the Commission concludes the determination of the Department to dismiss the complaint in this case is not an abuse of discretion. The objection is therefore overruled.

If a charging party chooses to commence a civil action in district court, the charging party has 90 days after the date this order is issued to file a complaint in district court, in the district where the alleged violation occurred, and seek appropriate relief. *Section 49-2-511(3)(a), MCA*. If a charging party fails to commence a civil action within 90 days, the claims are time barred. *Id.*

Alternatively, a party may ask a district court to review the decision of the Commission to affirm the dismissal of a complaint. *Sections 2-4-702 and 49-2-511(3)(b), MCA.* This review must be requested within 30 days of the date of this order. A party must promptly serve copies of a petition for judicial review upon the Human Rights Commission and all parties of record. *Section 2-4-702(2), MCA.*

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Jeanette Knaff's objection is **overruled**. The Commission affirms the determination of the Human Rights Bureau to dismiss the complaint against Cascade County Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul d/b/a St. Vincent de Paul.

DATED this 15th day of May, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dennis M. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Dennis M. Taylor, Chair
Human Rights Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned secretary for the Human Rights Commission certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing ORDER was mailed to the following by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on this 15th day of May, 2014.

JEANETTE KNAFF
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Annah Smith, Legal Secretary
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